

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN FLATOW

HON. DICK ZIMMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stephen Flatow, who will be the grand marshal of the Israel Independence Day Parade in Flemington, NJ, on Wednesday, April 24, 1996.

Stephen has suffered a tragic loss—his 20-year-old daughter was killed in a bus bombing in the Gaza Strip last year. Alisa Flatow has gone to Israel to continue the religious studies that were so important to her and her Jewish faith when a suicide bomber drove his car into the bus carrying Alisa and other students to a vacation spot near the Red Sea.

Although his loss was devastating and irreplaceable, Stephen Flatow has been able to help other families by giving speeches and attending events to talk about the tragic bombings that occur in Israel all too frequently and to raise money for the Alisa Flatow Memorial Fund to help send young Jews to Israel to continue their religious studies.

Stephen will be the grand marshal at this parade to celebrate Israel's 48th birthday, to express Jewish solidarity with Israel, and to show support for the more than 1,000 people who have been injured or killed in terrorist attacks in Israel.

I would like to take this opportunity to join the Jewish community, the parade participants and the members of the Flemington Jewish Center in honoring Stephen Flatow. His faith and courage have helped him through this tragedy and allowed him to educate and help others. He is well deserving of the honor to serve as grand marshal of the Salute to Israel Parade this week.

## TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY AND LINCOLN SCHOOLS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of outstanding young women from my district who are a credit to the Girl Scouts and their community.

Ten members of the troop based at Our Lady of Charity and Lincoln Schools in Cicero, IL were recently recognized for their good works with two different religious awards.

Chantel Bruno, Nicole Grimes, and Lindsay Pisarczyk were honored with the Marion Award during a ceremony at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. Christine Braun, Trisha Esparza, Emilia Huerta, Dalese White, Laura Vietmeyer, and Rose Villareal received the "I Live My Faith" award at a ceremony in our Lady of Charity Church in Cicero.

Among the girls' activities was a Christmas party they organized at a local nursing home, including preparing treats to meet the special dietary needs of residents.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these outstanding Girl Scouts on these honors, and extend to them my best wishes for the future.

## NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS WEEK

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, April 21 through April 27 has been designated as National Crime Victims Week. I was pleased to participate in the commemoration of this important observance yesterday by attending a tree planting and memorial ceremony in our Orange County Park in Montgomery, NY.

Too often, victims are forgotten or overlooked by society in its efforts to combat violent crime. The search for justice and the punishment of criminals frequently takes precedence over compassion and support for the victims they violated. Justice, however, includes the assistance of victims as well as the punishment of criminals. Promotion of victim awareness and the provision of necessary services to those caught in crime's way are vital components of our outlook toward crime.

I thank Dimitrios Lambros and Patty Bodnar of MADD, as well as the Orange County Probation Department, for sponsoring yesterday's ceremonies. I also commend the Rape Crisis Services, Survivors of Homicide Victims, Orange County Safe Homes, Stop DWI, and all the other victims' groups who were in attendance. Each of these volunteer organizations perform a valuable service by highlighting the plight of all those victimized by crime, be it violent or otherwise. Through compassionate counseling and sensitive assistance, these nonprofit groups help people overcome the trauma and human suffering which often result from violent crime.

This week I salute victims' groups everywhere in their noble efforts to provide support and assistance to all victims of crime.

## IN OBSERVANCE OF EARTH DAY

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, it was just 1 year ago when this nation celebrated the 25th anniversary of the original Earth Day. In the time since last year's observance, our Nation has engaged in one of the most spirited debates ever about the environment. What this debate highlights is that there is a delicate balance between our Nation's overall well-being and the ecosystem in which we live. There

can be no doubt that protecting the environment is important—the health and economic future of this country and its well being are dependent upon this essential investment.

In my own city of Cleveland, we have much to be proud about when we consider the enormous gains the city has made with regards to our natural resources. Cleveland now enjoys a river and lake free from many pollutants and hazards. In addition, the region was recently advised by EPA that it now meets Federal health-based ozone standards. For many years it had not.

Unfortunately, despite the progress that we have made to improve the environment across the Nation, under the new leadership in Congress, environmental progress and programs are now in question. In fact, I worry that in their efforts to enact the "Contract With America", our Republican colleagues seek to turn back the clock on environmental achievements by squandering this country's precious natural resources. A prime example of how low a priority the environment is on their agenda, the GOP Contract With America did not even contain the word environment. We know, however, of the contract's proposal for sweeping language calling for so-called "Regulatory Reform" that in fact would eliminate and cut back proven and essential regulations designed to protect the public health and environment.

Further, Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Earth Day, the Congress has yet to resolve the fiscal year 1996 appropriations bill for the Environmental Protection Agency. The proposed reductions to critical EPA programs were among the key reasons that the President vetoed the bill when it was first passed by the Congress—not to mention the fact that this piece of legislation would roll back decades of progress in environmental protection. I commend the President for vetoing this bill.

However, even after all that the Democrats in Congress and the administration have done to safeguard the environment, the assault against the environment is not over. While it appears that additional funds may be provided for the fiscal year 1996 EPA appropriations, harmful language is still included. Furthermore, our Republican colleagues are still pushing legislation that ultimately may reverse many environmental regulations.

Mr. Speaker, Americans from all walks of life have let us know loud and clear that reversing this nation's progress toward clean streams and lakes, clean air, safe drinking water, food safety and other national environmental goals is not acceptable. Let us heed their call and enact genuine environmentally-safe legislation this Congress.

## IN COMMEMORATION OF EARTH DAY 1996

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Earth Day 1996 with citizens from

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